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THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

BY LESLIE F. GAY, JR.

Ideas must always precede their objective realization. Arising from thoughtful experience, ideas change with changing conditions. Only as first thought can they afterwards be given concrete expression. Having once formulated an idea, a personality may then project it into experience and clothe it with the garb of substantial reality. Every institution is the expression of ideas constructed by thought. In tracing the growth and expansion of any institution a simple description of its physical contour would be entirely inadequate. The scope of such a work must be enlarged to include a consideration of the underlying forces, which, in great measure, determine its character and the trend of its development. Only in this way can one have a clear understanding and a true conception of the nature and meaning of the progressive unfoldment both in idea and external realization. In attempting to describe the origin and work of a great educational institution, such as the University of Southern California, it would be impossible for one to omit a consideration of those agencies to which its inception and subsequent development are so largely attributable.

One of the most potent influences at work in the early inception of this University was the spirit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that great organization of which the founders of this institution were a part. Nor has this ever ceased to be present. The spirit of Methodism standing, as it has and does, for the highest possible development of character, both individual and corporate, and believing that this is attainable only through a proper balance in the functioning of life in all of its departments, has always emphasized the need of training of intellect as well as culture of heart. Methodism holds that true education and true piety go hand in hand. Imbued with such a spirit and actuated by such principles, its representatives have always sought to raise the intellectual standard of the community, and at the same time furnish a proper moral and religious atmosphere. Wherever Methodism goes, there we may always expect to find institutions of learning growing up under her fostering care. The reason for this has been voiced in the words

of the great Bishop Simpson, "Thinkers will always dominate the affairs of the world and if the church is to exercise her proper influence, she must train men in order that they may become the leaders in thought."

It was such a conviction which actuated the pioneers of the Church in this section, filling them with an ardent desire to start some educational work. While it is undoubtedly true that a few persons connected with the church stood out as the staunch supporters and foremost advocates of the launching of an institution of learning in this vicinity, and even, may have been the first to declare it as their conviction that conditions were favorable and the time was ripe, yet, with no disparagement to the genius and work of those most actively concerned, it will not be too much to say that the founding of the University of Southern California was as much the logical outcome of the manifest tendency of Methodism, as the result of individual enterprise and initiative.

At an early date many people on this western coast seem to have been awakened to a realization of the wonderful possibilities which were in store for Southern California. The veil which hides the future seems to have been parted a little so as to enable some to gain a glimpse of the wonderful development which this favored land was to experience. They seemed to see, as with prophetic vision, this great expanse of uninhabited and sparsely settled district transformed into a densely populated section: cities with their teeming multitudes rising on what before were only vast stretches of brush covered wastes, and many thousands dwelling in their homes on the hills and in the surrounding valleys, enjoying the blessings which nature has so lavishly bestowed upon these sunny lands. They were confident that here the greatest intellectual development of the race would be reached; that literature, art and science would flourish to a degree never before witnessed; and that this section would become one of the great depots of trade and commerce. Here would be solved the great problems which have perplexed society in all ages, and that here would be realized the highest degree of civilization yet attained by man, in consequence of which, Southern California would become the world's central distributing point of knowledge and culture. A marvellous dream, indeed, one whose complete realization must be postponed even yet to the distant future.

Among the names of those whose vision was especially clear, must be mentioned that of Reverend John R. Tansey, from 1871 to 1875, Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles District. This was before the division of the California Conference. As practically all of Southern California was included within the bounds of his jurisdiction, he was enabled to familiarize himself thoroughly with

conditions throughout the entire section. It early became apparent to the far-seeing mind of Tansey that a great future lay before Southern California; and that Los Angeles was destined to become one of the large centers on the Pacific coast. A number of things strongly confirmed this conviction. The railroads were already beginning to push their way slowly from the north and east toward this southern coast, and the population of the territory was steadily increasing. Then, the great extent of rich and fertile soil, the healthful climate, and the charming natural surroundings, all combined to make this a section of exceptional promise. While laying here a sure foundation for the future upbuilding of the church, yet Tansey was not unmindful of the fact, that, along with the growth of the country and the increase of population, there must needs be an enlargement of the educational facilities as well. And true to his conviction and the mission of the church he represented, he set about to formulate plans for the establishment here of an institution of learning to be under the supervision of Methodism. Shortly after taking up his work as Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles District, Tansey had purchased a considerable tract of land near the present townsite of Florence. And now, with the idea of a school in mind, he proposed to donate a portion of this property, enough for a campus, and have the school located upon it. As far as can be learned, the first person to whom Tansey made known his plan was Reverend W. A. Knighten, a distant relative, and at the time a young minister on the District. In addition to outlining his general plan, he suggested Reverend M. M. Bovard as the best man to place at the head of the new project. Bovard was then pastor of the Methodist church at Riverside. Later Tansey went over the whole matter with him.

However, in the fall of 1875, at the session of the California Conference held that year in San Francisco, owing to failing health, Tansey sought relief from the arduous duties of the Presiding Eldership. At his own request he was granted a supernumerary relation. But the rest which he desired was of short duration, for on the 30th of June of the following year, he died. In the death of John R. Tansey Methodism lost a most valued and efficient servant. While Tansey's plan for a University never materialized, owing to his sudden taking away, yet the wisdom and foresight which he had shown is worthy of especial consideration, for his was one of the earliest movements looking toward the founding of a Methodist institution of higher learning in Southern California. Later, in commemoration of the part her husband had played in this great work, Mrs. Sarah E. Tansey gave property valued at \$20,000, to endow a chair in the University of Southern California, to be known as the Tansey chair of Christian Ethics.

Another name, closely associated with the early beginnings of the University, is that of Robert Maclay Widney. Coming to Los Angeles, in February, 1868, Mr. Widney immediately went into the real estate business. A little later he took up the practice of law. A man of strong character, broad vision and high intellectual attainment, he soon became a commanding figure in Southern California. In 1871, Mr. Widney was appointed Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District by Governor Booth to serve the unexpired term of Judge Morrison, deceased. In this capacity he served with eminent distinction, retiring at the end of two years to resume the practice of his profession. The sagacious mind of Judge Widney early perceived that a marvellous future lay before this section. He freely voiced his conviction in the most enthusiastic and glowing terms. Being a public spirited man, interested in all efforts which had as their aim the welfare and good of the community, and having unbounded faith in the country's future, he became very desirous of laying the foundation for some work which would be of permanent and lasting benefit to the people of Southern California. Thinking the matter over, the idea of a great educational institution suggested itself to his mind. An institution which should furnish the facilities for acquiring the greatest possible intellectual development, under the best moral and Christian influences. For, being closely identified with the work of the Methodist Church, of which he himself was a member, Judge Widney was not among those who advocate a complete separation of religion and education, but rather of the number who hold that the broadest and best character is achieved only through the coördination of the two.

Soon after his arrival in Los Angeles, Judge Widney had conceived the idea of a great University and had begun to formulate plans for its establishment. He had interested the Hon. Abel Stearns, a prominent and influential citizen of this section, who had large property holdings in Southern California, in his project, and had secured his coöperation. Together they had about matured a plan whereby the Laguna Rancho, owned by Mr. Stearns, embracing some 11,000 acres adjoining Los Angeles City on the southeast, was to be put into a building and endowment fund for the proposed University. Just before Mr. Stearns left Los Angeles for San Francisco he called at Judge Widney's office and assured him that on his return they would proceed at once to carry out the proposed plan, and put the property into a satisfactory and safe educational work. But, unfortunately, while Mr. Stearns was in San Francisco, sickness came upon him and took him away. As a result of his death the plan for the University, which had nearly been brought to completion, had to be abandoned. This was in the year 1871.

While Judge Widney still retained the idea of the University, yet all active efforts were suspended for the time. The period of depression which set in shortly afterwards and which continued for the next few years throughout the entire country rendered impracticable any renewed activity. Early in 1875, the great panic which had swept over the country two years before began to make itself felt on the Pacific coast. Property values immediately depreciated, a great stringency tightened the money market, banks began to close their doors, business fell off and dull times followed throughout all Southern California. The drought of 1877 only intensified the hard times. Not until the spring of 1879 did the tide begin to turn and the pressure become appreciably reduced. Judge Widney was among the first to perceive that a change was coming on, in consequence, the University plan, which had long remained in abeyance, was again revived and carried forward to a successful issue.

In May, 1879, one evening, Judge Widney invited Reverend A. M. Hough to his residence and laid before him the plans of the University work. He had previously drawn up a deed of trust wherein Dr. J. S. Griffin and Mr. H. M. Johnston offered to convey certain real estate in East Los Angeles for a campus and endowment fund to establish the University at East Los Angeles. They discussed the opportuneness of the time to start such a work. Feeling that the dull times had reached their darkest days, they were confident that Los Angeles and Southern California were on the eve of a great rise in real estate, and that then was the best time to secure endowment lands for educational work. It was decided to invite Hon. E. F. Spence and Dr. J. P. Widney to meet with them the following evening. A consultation of these four gentlemen resulted in their determination for all to join in the enterprise of establishing a University in this city. Another meeting was arranged for, at which Reverend M. M. Bovard, then pastor of the Fort Street Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. G. D. Compton were invited to be present. At this meeting the general conclusion was reached, the same as before. A motion was made and carried by a majority vote to change the plan in material respects so that the Conference should select the trustees of the endowment fund, and so that debts could be incurred if desired. The minority refusing to proceed in the work with such a change, the vote was rescinded. It was also decided, on motion of Reverend A. M. Hough, by a majority vote to change the proposed name from a University to a College; also that instead of accepting the offer made, that other offers of land near the city be solicited and the most favorable one selected.

Various offers were received from out on Temple Street, Boyle

Heights, West Los Angeles, and East Los Angeles. The offer from West Los Angeles was secured by Mr. Hough. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, the several propositions were considered, and by a majority vote the West Los Angeles offer was accepted. At this meeting Mr. Hough moved to change the name from College back to a University, and it was decided to call it "The University of Southern California," and to use every effort to make it such.

The original deed of trust of the University was executed on the 29th day of July, 1879, by Ozro W. Childs, John G. Downey and Isaias W. Hellman, donors to A. M. Hough, J. P. Widney, E. F. Spence, M. M. Bovard, G. D. Compton and R. M. Widney, as Trustees. By the terms of the deed, three hundred and eight lots, including the portion reserved for the University campus, situated in West Los Angeles, were conveyed to the Board of Trustees as an endowment fund, the income of which was to be used for the support and maintenance of the proposed University. The deed further specified that the Board of Trustees, which was a self-perpetuating body, should secure the incorporation of the University under the name, "The University of Southern California;" that the lots should not be sold for less than \$100 each; that no loan, mortgage, or encumbrance should ever be placed upon the property belonging to the endowment fund; that only the income should be turned over to the Board of Directors to be used for establishing and supporting the University; and that the first \$5000 net realized from the sale of lots should be used to erect the first building. It also stipulated that a majority of the trustees must be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; that they were to be held personally responsible by the Board of Directors for any violation of the provisions of the trust; and finally, that the University and the Corporation were to be under the control and management of the Southern California Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In addition to these lands, there were donated thirty-seven and one-half acres, by adjoining property owners on the same terms of trust as in the original deed of conveyance.

In pursuance of the provisions of the "Deed of Trust," and by the action of the Board of Trustees of the endowment fund, the incorporation of the University, in accordance with the laws of the State of California, was effected on the 5th day of August, 1880, under the corporate name of "The University of Southern California." The Articles of Incorporation stated that:

"The corporation is formed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a University for Educational purposes, with all the powers necessary to maintain and conduct a University; with powers to confer any and all degrees, honors and evidence of degrees and honors usually conferred by Universities; with power to confer

such other degrees, honors and evidence thereof as said corporation may deem best to confer. Said corporation shall have no power or authority to contract or incur any indebtedness or liability that shall in any manner be a lien or incumbrance on any property that may belong to said corporation; provided, that any conveyance of property to said corporation may specifically provide that such property may be, in the discretion of said corporation, subjected to any lien or incumbrance. Said University shall be open in every respect for the equal education of both sexes. Said University and corporation is to be under the control and management of the Methodist Episcopal Conference of Southern California, or such other conference as it may be changed into."

Provision was also made that the number of Directors should be eleven, and that the successors of the first board should be elected by the Southern California Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

An election for the Board of Directors was held in Los Angeles, California, on the 30th day of July, 1880, which resulted in the selection of A. M. Hough, Charles Shelling, E. F. Spence, P. Y. Cool, S. C. Hubbell, E. S. Chase, P. M. Green, J. G. Downey, R. M. Widney, J. A. Van Anda, and F. S. Woodcock, as the first Board of Directors of the University of Southern California. The board met on Friday, September 3rd, 1880, and organized by the election of officers and the adoption of a code of By-Laws. At this initial meeting Reverend M. M. Bovard, A. M., was elected to the Presidency and Reverend F. D. Bovard, A. M., his brother, to a Professorship in the new University. A contract was also entered into at this time with the Board of Directors by the Reverends Bovard in which they agreed to assume all responsibility for the conduct and maintenance of the educational department of an institution of higher learning, in accordance with the provisions contained in the "Deed of Trust," Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and the conditions imposed as a result of the control being vested in the Southern California Conference, the Board guaranteeing to furnish the campus and to erect and maintain a suitable building for educational purposes, as provided for in the "Deed of Trust," use of which should be free of charge. By the terms of the agreement the Bovards were to have entire charge of the internal organization and management of the University; they were to receive all monies from tuitions, Conference collections, endowment fund income, and donations, select all members of the Faculty subject to the approval of the Board, arrange a proper curriculum, and defray all expenses incurred in carrying on the educational work of the institution, reserving whatever balance

there might be for their own remuneration. The contract was to run for a period of five years.

The University was exceedingly fortunate in having been able, in its inception, to secure the services of two such able scholars. At that time there were few in this pioneer Conference who were college graduates, or in touch, to any degree, with higher educational work. President Bovard had received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from De Pauw University. Appointed in 1873 to mission work in Arizona, he came to Southern California by way of San Francisco, and took the stage from here to his new field of labor. On arriving at the Colorado River, owing to the outbreak of Indian troubles, further progress was rendered impracticable, and so he was forced to return to San Bernardino to await the cessation of hostilities. While there Reverend John R. Tansey found Bovard and sent him to Riverside to act as a supply. He met with such success and the work seemed so promising that Tansey asked for his release from the Arizona Mission, and stationed him as regular pastor of the Methodist church at Riverside. Admitted to the California Conference in 1875, with the division of the Conference, he became a charter member of the Southern California Conference organized the following year. After serving a year each at Compton and San Diego, with marked success, in 1878 Reverend M. M. Bovard was appointed to the pastorate of the Fort Street Methodist Church, Los Angeles, the leading charge in the Conference. Here he remained until the fall of 1880, when he accepted the call which came to take up the work of the University.

Professor F. D. Bovard was also an alumnus of De Pauw, having completed his work and received his Master's degree in Arts in the spring of 1875. Aware of the opportunities which a new country offered to an ambitious young man, he resolved to follow his brother to Southern California. On his arrival, in the fall of 1875, he at once took the pastorate of the church at Riverside, succeeding his brother. Reverend F. D. Bovard was also a charter member of the Southern California Conference. After serving acceptably different charges, in 1879, he was appointed to the Methodist Church at Santa Barbara, then the second charge in the Conference. Here he remained until 1880, when he decided to enter upon the University work in conjunction with his brother, M. M. Bovard. As both men were thoroughly trained and prepared, and just a few years out of College, they were the best fitted of all who were here at the time to take charge of this new and important enterprise. They did this, however, at great personal sacrifice, leaving the leading pastorates in the Conference with lucrative salaries, to enter a field which, at best, offered scant support and remuneration.

But for the church and the cause of education they cheerfully responded to the call of duty, and gave themselves heart and soul to the work of laying a sure foundation for the institution whose charge had been committed to their care.

While all the necessary legal steps had been taken for establishing the University, one thing still remained, and that was the formal acceptance of the Trust by the Southern California Conference. This was accomplished at the annual session of the Conference held during the early part of September, 1880, in the Fort Street Methodist Church, Los Angeles. By this action the University was adopted by the Conference and became the representative of the educational interests of Methodism in Southern California.

During the summer of 1880, the trustees of the endowment fund, after careful consideration, voted to sell thirty lots and with the proceeds erect and furnish a frame building in which to begin the educational work. The market value of the lots at the time was about fifty dollars each, but friends of the University purchased them at two hundred dollars each. Stakes had already been set for the lots and the streets marked out in the University tract. Four of the streets were named after the donors of the property, while the rest bore, principally, the names of Bishops or other prominent characters of the Methodist Church. The streets bounding the campus were, on the west, Hough Avenue, on the north, Downey Street, on the south Hellman Street, and on the east, Wesley Avenue. A contract was let for the erection of the first building. The corner-stone laying was held on the 4th of September, 1880, while the annual Conference was in session. On the afternoon of the day set apart for the ceremonies, which was Saturday, a large company, including the members of the Conference, friends of the University, and citizens, assembled out at the site of the proposed University in West Los Angeles. The exercises were in charge of Bishops I. W. Wiley and Matthew Simpson. Bishop Wiley was then holding the Conference, and Bishop Simpson returning from a recent visit to the Arizona Mission had stopped off for a few days in this city before continuing on his way north. It was a great occasion not only for the University and the church, but for the city as well. In that early day Los Angeles was considerably smaller than at present—the census for 1880 gave as the total population 11,145—and naturally an event of this character would assume a place of great importance in the eyes of the general public.

According to the best reports attainable, it was estimated that between five hundred and a thousand people were present. Some

came in vehicles of one sort or another, there being over two hundred such on the ground; many others came on foot, on horse-back, and by the slow and uncertain horse-car line, which ran out from the center of town passed the campus to Agricultural Park, now Exposition Park. To the inconveniences of transportation, other discomforts were added, for the day was extremely warm, and the entire country covered with a thick layer of fine dust. A rough temporary platform had been erected to serve as the speaker's stand. Promptly at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, the exercises were opened with the singing of a hymn by the choir of the Fort Street Church. This was followed with the reading of a Scripture lesson by President Bovard, after which Reverend Charles Shelling, Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles District, led in fervent prayer. Reverend A. M. Hough then gave a brief historical survey of the work accomplished and presented the deed of the University property to the Board of Directors for whom it was acknowledged by the President of the Board, Hon. R. M. Widney. Bishop Wiley next introduced Hon. J. G. Downey, one of the donors named in the original "Deed of Trust" who, in a short address, eulogized the enterprise and complimented the sagacity and skill of the promoters.

Following the speech of Ex-Governor Downey, the principal address of the occasion, as previously arranged, was given by Bishop Wiley. In opening, the Bishop very adroitly assured his hearers that he intended only making a few introductory remarks, after which the great Bishop Simpson would deliver the address of the occasion. However, the Bishop's remarks included a most masterly and inspiring address of about one hour in length. On being presented as the next speaker Bishop Simpson in a humorous vein referred to the remarks of the former speaker and added that, "as is always the case he is Bishop Wiley." Then followed a description, such as only the great Simpson could give in which he portrayed the marvellous possibilities that lay before the institution whose small beginnings they were then viewing, and compared its future growth and achievement to the giant Sequoia, which, starting from the little seed, at length stands forth in all of its transcendent strength and power, the mighty monarch of the forest. The speaker, after forcibly emphasizing the principles upon which the foundation of the institution rested, together with the ideals it sought to realize, proceeded to unveil the secret of the success and power which he so confidently predicted that it would achieve in these deeply significant and impressive words, "Christ shall walk these Halls and Christ shall be in these recitation rooms. This institution shall be under His government and control." The laying of the corner-stone followed, Bishop Wiley

offering the prayer of consecration, after which the Doxology was sung and the benediction pronounced by Bishop Simpson. Standing in the midst of a vast stretch of unoccupied, uncultivated plain covered with a rank growth of wild mustard, the unfinished building was, indeed, a lonely object to those who only saw the present. But for some the veil which concealed the future was lifted a little, and the coming years were in view with the possibilities of a great work presenting itself in clear and unmistakable outline, for the encouragement of those who were faithfully laying the foundation for its subsequent success.

The building, in accordance with the terms of the contract, was completed and ready for the opening of the school work by October 4th, 1880. Its cost was approximately \$5,060, with an additional expenditure of some \$1,200 for furnishings. It was a large two-story frame structure, well planned and constructed, and presented an excellent exterior. Inside it was neatly furnished. The lower floor was divided into several comfortable rooms convenient for class-room purposes, and the upper floor contained a large and ample Assembly Hall in addition to other smaller rooms. In the Assembly Hall on the evening of the 5th of October, the ceremonies connected with the inauguration of the first President of the University, Reverend Marion McKinley Bovard, were held. A large number of friends and citizens were present on this occasion. After the opening exercises, the address of installation was delivered by Judge R. M. Widney, President of the Board of Directors, at the close of which he handed over the keys of the institution to Reverend M. M. Bovard. President Bovard then delivered the inaugural address, selecting for his theme, "Education as a Factor in Civilization." It was an able, earnest and eloquent address.

On the following morning, the 6th of October, 1880, the University opened its doors for the reception of students and the beginning of its work. About fifty students were enrolled in the various departments. In addition to the regular work of the Academic and Collegiate departments, a Normal course was provided, especially for those preparing to teach, and provision was also made for such as desired to elect certain special studies out of the regular course in order to fit themselves for professional work. Classes were also organized in Business, Drawing, Elocution and in Vocal and Instrumental Music. A special class was provided for those who could not be classified in any regular course. The year was divided into three terms. The tuition in the Academic department was \$12 per term and in the College \$15, Music, Drawing and Elocution being extra. Three courses were offered in the Academic department each covering a period of two years; the English, Literary and

Classical. The English course which included the more practical branches, omitting the classics, led to the Scientific course in College; the Literary, which took in Latin, prepared the student for the Philosophical course, and the Classical, which included both Latin and Greek, led to the same course in the University. In the College department three courses of study were offered, each covering a period of four years. One, the Classical, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts; second, the Philosophical, which omitted Greek, giving more prominence to History and Literature, leading to the Bachelor's degree in Philosophy; and third, the Scientific, which omitted the classics altogether, and led to the degree of Bachelor of Science. All of the subjects in the regular courses, both of Academy and College, were required throughout, no electives being allowed. As there were scarcely any students of collegiate rank the first year, the work was confined almost entirely to special courses, and the Preparatory department.

During the first year the President and Professor Bovard did the large part of the teaching with the help of one other regular teacher most of the time, and the partial services of a number of other competent instructors and lecturers. Instruction of a high order was furnished in all departments. The regular Faculty consisted of Rev. M. M. Bovard, A. M., who in addition to the presidency conducted the classes in Moral, Mental and Natural Science; Rev. F. D. Bovard, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Ancient Languages, and Mrs. Jennie Allen Bovard, M. S., Professor of English Language and Literature. J. P. Widney, A. M., M. D., delivered lectures during the year on English Literature, Physiology and Hygiene. Mrs. Anna S. Averill, M. S., was, for a time, assistant in Mathematics and Normal Instruction, but was later followed by Professor J. Newton Burgess, A. M. Rev. C. H. Bolinger taught German, Miss Josephine T. Clarke French and Instrumental Music, and Madame Marra Vocal Music, the latter being succeeded later by Professor J. E. Fiske of Boston. Maria Pruneda gave instruction in Spanish, and Miss M. D. McChain in Elocution, the latter also serving as assistant in English whenever necessary. The Bovards employed extra teachers, even though depriving themselves of needed support, rather than let the school suffer from the lack of competent instructors.

At a meeting of the University Board of Directors held in January, 1881, President Bovard submitted a proposition made by Mr. and Mrs. William W. Hodge, recently from Denver, Colorado, in which they offered to purchase some lots in the University tract and erect a large building to be used as a boarding hall and dormitory. The offer was gratefully accepted by the Board, and during

the spring "Hodge Hall," named for the donors, was built at a cost, including the furniture, of approximately \$4500. It was a large and commodious frame structure designed to accommodate about twenty-five boarders. Most of the work was done by Mr. Hodge himself, who was an expert carpenter. The entire property was secured on a reversionary deed to the Trustees of the Endowment Fund, so that at the death of the donors, it belonged to the University. The Hall was erected on a lot at the corner of McClintock Avenue and 35th Street, where it stood for a number of years, until moved to its present location on the campus.

Along with the regular University work a high moral and religious atmosphere was always maintained. The exercises of each day were opened with divine worship in the Chapel, at which the attendance of all students was required. On Sabbath mornings each student was expected to attend public worship at some church of his own choice. A special series of lectures was arranged for, to be given each Sunday afternoon throughout the year, either by members of the Faculty, or by prominent persons in the city, which were designed, particularly, for the moral and religious education of the students. During this first year the University Church was also organized for the accommodation, primarily, of the students and Faculty of the University, and those residing in the immediate vicinity. Services were held in the College Chapel, the pulpit being filled by the President, Rev. M. M. Bovard.

The government of the institution was vested in the Faculty, and a strict surveillance was kept over the conduct and work of those in attendance. At the close of each term, an examination was given on the work gone over, and a statement of the standing of each student was sent to the parent or guardian. Final examinations were always held at the end of the year covering the entire year's work. The beginnings of a Library and Museum were started during this initial year. Some seven hundred volumes in addition to three or four hundred magazines and periodicals, mostly the contribution of Rev. Alfred Higbie, a superannuated minister of the Southern California Conference, formed the nucleus for the Library. A fine collection of geological, mineralogical, and other specimens was also given to the University for the Museum. Shortly after the opening of the year a Literary Society was organized, composed of all the students in the institution who were interested along those lines. The name selected for the Society was "The Union" and the object as stated was "improvement in original composition and oratory." Meetings were held regularly on Friday afternoon of each week in the College Chapel.

The work of the first year in the history of the University of

Southern California came to a close June the 24th, 1881. It was a year of great labor and sacrifice on the part of those at the head of the institution. Commencing as it did under conditions which rendered impossible large success in numbers, with insufficient accommodations to meet the demands of those who did come, and lack of funds with which to purchase necessary apparatus and equipment for school purposes, the University found the year an especially trying one. Conference collections were small, practically no money was available from the endowment fund, and the receipts from tuitions were not large. As a result the Bovards received but a mere pittance for their efficient service. Yet in spite of the many difficulties and discouragements a good start had been made. About fifty-five students were in attendance during the year. Times were beginning to improve, property values were slowly rising, lots were selling more readily, and the prospects for the future were good.